The 2014-2015 NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge

Dig deep together on a faith journey to...

KNOW the Story

BE the Story

TELL the Story

...of Christ's love in the world.

November: INVITE

All of us are living a story. Together we are living in the middle of God's story – for us, and for our neighbor. Faith practices help us on our faith journey to KNOW God's Story for our lives and the world…to BE God's story of love and reconciliation in the world…and to TELL God's Story so the world can know they are part of God's Story.

The Northeastern Minnesota Synod Discipleship Challenge focuses on the faith practices of *Give, Invite, Serve, Study, Worship, Prayer, and Encourage.* There are many more, and we hope you explore others on your journey as well!

The faith practice focus for the month of November is *INVITE*. Below is a discussion guide that can be used in conjunction with the "INVITE" video teaser and Bishop Aitken's video challenge, which can be found on the Discipleship Challenge website at www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship. The teaser and challenge videos are meant as conversation starters…the real learning and growth takes place in your discussions that follow the videos!

You are encouraged to use these questions in your homes, during coffee hour, at ministry meetings, in youth group - wherever you have the opportunity to dwell on and discuss what it means for us as individuals and as a family of faith **to KNOW the Story, BE the Story, and TELL the Story of Christ's love in the world!** The questions are arranged in a way that allows you to move deeper into the conversation as you feel comfortable. They need not be done all at once and there is no right or wrong answers. You have all month (and beyond!) to dwell on these questions and to add your own. The point is to make room for some thoughtful and deliberate discussion.

And remember, our spiritual hunger to grow and deepen our faith has nothing to do with success, getting the "right" answer, or works. It's all about living – fully living – into the grace of God as God's children… as disciples, following Jesus in our daily life!

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for your willingness to grow in your discipleship to Christ our Lord!

www.nemnsynod.org/Discipleship

NE MN Synod Discipleship Challenge: KNOW…BE…TELL the Story! November 2014: INVITE

My Story

- What is a story of *invitation* that has made an impact on your life? Maybe it's a story of how you were invited to church, maybe a story where you invited someone else.
- How did that experience/story inspire you…challenge you…teach you?

KNOW the Story

- Throughout the Gospel narrative, Jesus invites and invites again. Rich, poor, old, young, the in crowd and those on the outside looking in – Jesus invites everyone! What does that teach us about how inviting we could be and the types of people we could be inviting?
- How is invitation part of God's Story for us?
- What examples can you think of that talk about God's invitation to others?

BE the Story

- Read Mark 10:17-27. What kept the young man from accepting the invitation extended to him by Jesus?
- What are other things that you think keep people from accepting Jesus' invitation?
- What are the things that keep you from extending an invitation to others?
- How does this particular story end (Mark 10:27)? What does that say to us about our practice of invitation? What does that say about who we partner with in this wonderful practice of invitation and about the likely outcome?

Tell the Story

- What keeps you from inviting your children, your friends, your parents, your co-workers, your neighbors into a conversation about faith, or inviting them to worship?
- What would you want to share with others about *what it feels to be invited, or what it feels like to invite another*?
- What story can you tell? How could your story/experience with *invitation* encourage…inspire…teach…challenge others to grow in their faith through inviting others into an experience of faith? How could you share that with others?
- How does telling our story of how we have experienced "invitation" share Christ's love in the world?